

FREE

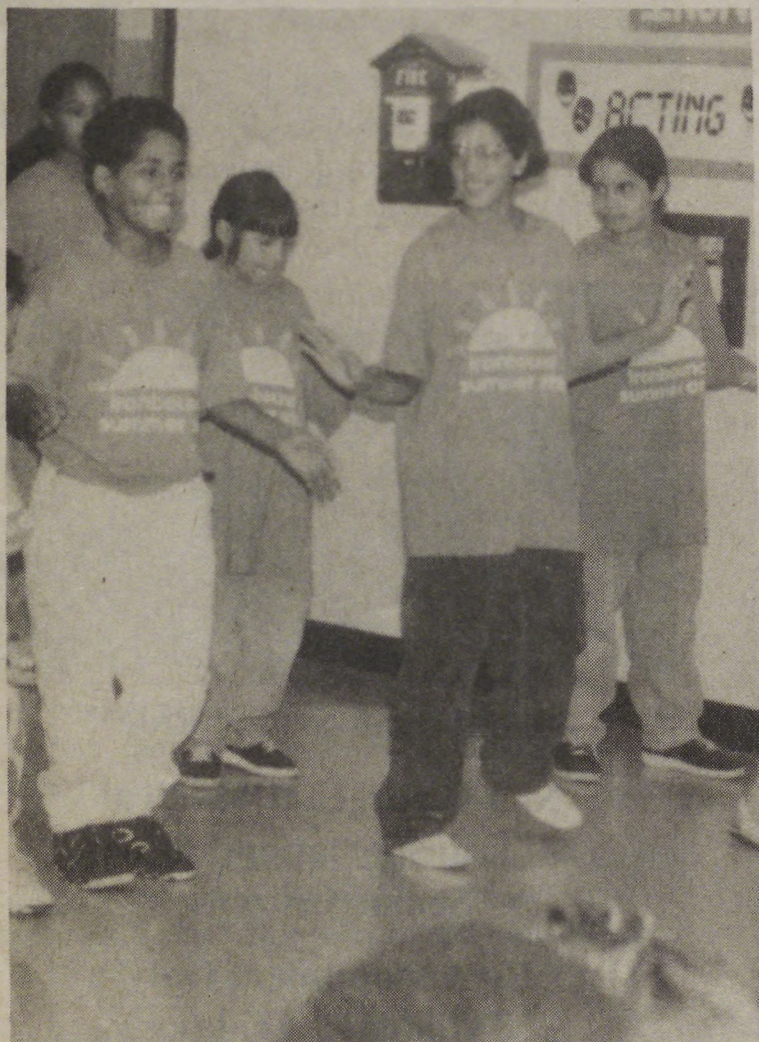
GRATIS

TRI-LINGUAL

IRONBOUND VOICES

Vol. 20 No. 3

Fall 1997



Inside This Issue:

Riverbank Park, No Stadium P.3
Estádio de Beisebol: Não P.11
No Habra Estadio De Beisbol
En El Parque Riverbank P.13

Incinerator: We Told You So P.9
Nos O Avisamos P.10
Se Lo Advertimos P.15

For Our Children P.4
Para As Crianças P.9
Para Nossos Filhos P.15

ICATW P.6
Hall of Fame P.6

Ironbound Summer Arts P.2

Questions and Answers About SID . . . P.9

English p. 1 - 9, Português p. 10 - 12, Español p. 13 - 15

Summer Arts Program A Big Hit

The Ironbound Community Corporation's Summer Arts Program, in its 5th year, continued to be a big hit with students and their parents. Children in the program range in age from 6 to 12 years old. The first three weeks of this year's program concentrated on the visual arts: painting, writing poetry, mural making, ceramics, and jewelry making were among the activities. The last three weeks featured music, dancing and dramatic arts, and ended up with a full blown performance presented for the parents.

Toni Thomas, program director, is an artist herself, who has a fine arts degree from Rutgers University. Ms. Thomas uses her network to contact artists to work with the children in the summer program. Teachers for the last part of this summer included: Kabu Okai Davies, founder of African Globe Theatre, Newark music teacher Jensia Mosley, a well known African dancer and dance instructor Paula Yaa McCoy Franklin, and African percussionist Ed Eddings.

The ICC Summer Arts Program is held at 432 Lafayette St. "Our objective is to give children a summer of art enrichment classes," says Program Director Thomas.



Young percussionists provide the accompaniment for an African folk tale acted out in dance and movement.



Singing out during "Performance '97" at the Ironbound Community Corporation's Summer Arts Program.

**Ironbound Senior Ride
Non-Emergency Medical
Transportation For
Senior Citizens**

**By Appointment Only
Monday - Friday**

For Info: 344-6695

Riverbank Park: No Baseball Stadium Now Clean It UP!

Ironbound residents battling against City and County officials who wanted to put a baseball stadium in Riverbank Park won a victory, when officials announced in September that the baseball stadium would be put on Bridge St. in downtown Newark.

"It's a victory for the people of this community," said Manuel Lavin from SPARK, the Save The Park At Riverbank. "Residents of this community did not want a for-profit sports stadium there. Now, we've got to work together to get the park cleaned up and maintained for community residents."

Because there have been toxic chemicals found in the park, SPARK is now working with a number of environmental experts to understand the extent of the problem, and how to clean it up in the quickest, and cheapest way possible. SPARK has contacted New Jersey Institute of Technology, the Eco-Policy Institute and a number of other scientific experts.

"We have to get the park reopened as soon as possible, since the need for recreation in this community is so great," said Rev. Paul Hagedorn, a SPARK member. "SPARK intends to do everything it can to speed the process, and also to locate areas in Ironbound where additional fields for our young people who want to play soccer and baseball can be located. Ironbound needs more recreational areas."

The decision to change the location for the baseball stadium is not final, as it still must be approved by the County Board of Freeholders and the City Council.

The latest chapters in a battle which has gone on for over two years, took place this summer. During August, the National Park Service



issued a "cease and desist" order, to stop the demolition of the park. The Essex County Improvement Authority (ECIA), the developers, were supposed to submit their project to the Park Service for approval. Because federal tax dollars were spent in the park, the National Park Service must approve changes in the park. The federal reviews would have taken several years. New Jersey's Green Acres Program must also give approval to the project. The developers wanted the team to begin playing in the spring of 1998.

In a separate development, the Advisory Board to the state of New Jersey's Historic Preservation Commissioner voted unanimously on September 24, 1997, to recommend that Riverbank Park be designated as a historic site. With this designation, the community must have a voice in any changes in the park. Changes can still be made inside the park, if the community wants them (for example, adding 10 yards to make the football field regulation size for soccer). The final decision about historic designation must be made by Commissioner James Hall. Since the park was designed to include recreation, historic preservation in this case will guarantee that recreational activities for many kinds of recreational activities continue

cont. p. 5

"Make A Choice That's Good For Children"

"There must never again be a Hiroshima. We have to come to grips with our destiny. Life is a choice, and we have to make a choice that's good for children. We need to march out of our schools, our homes, and our churches, and demand fundamental change."

The speaker was Ramsey Clark, former Attorney General of the United States. Mr. Clark was the keynote speaker at the 1997 Hiroshima Day Celebration, held at Metropolitan Baptist Church on August 7, 1997.

Mr. Clark talked about the Trident 2 nuclear submarines the United States has which can launch 24 missiles simultaneously. Each of the missiles contains ten times the explosive charge of the bomb that destroyed Nagasaki.

Mr. Clark said that in the next three years, 65,000 in the western states of the United States will die from thyroid cancer caused by testing nuclear bombs.

Mr. Clark said more than 500,000 children were killed in the Iraqi War, as a result of the bombing and the sanctions of that country.

"Nuclear violence is predicated on the fact that property has a greater value than life," said Mr. Clark. "The neutron bomb kills people but lets property stand."

"Look at the ghettos and barrios of Newark and you see hungry people, unemployed people, people with no health care, decaying schools, where you can't really learn to read and write."

Mr. Clark said that resources are being taken away from the children, the poor, the seniors, the chronically ill.

Congressman Donald Payne, who also spoke at the Hiroshima Day observance, echoed that theme. "We will not be able to do things like improve schools and provide jobs and housing as long as we continue to funnel billions of dollars to weapons."



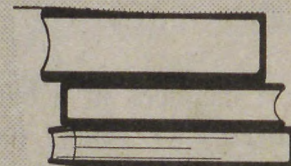
Ramsey Clark, former Attorney General of the United States, speaking in Newark.

"This country's massive expense in the name of strong defense (\$248 billion in defense appropriations) actually threatens to make our country weaker."

Van Buren St. Library To Reopen

A grand opening for the renovated Van Buren St. Library will be held on November 5, 1997 at 10:00 AM. The Homework Club will begin again on November 6, 1997.

The new space will have special areas for quiet and work and children's activities. It will feature public-access computers connected to the Information Superhighway. There will also be a community meeting room. For library information and hours, call 733-3897.



Riverbank Recommended For Historic Site

The following are comments made by Manuel Lavin from SPARK at the New Jersey State Advisory Council meeting on the historic designation for Riverbank Park. The Advisory Council voted unanimously to recommend that the park be designated as a historic site. The final decision must be made by Commissioner James Hall, of the Department of Environmental Protection.

I am here as a resident of the Ironbound section of Newark to talk about the significance of Riverbank Park to our community.

For nearly 90 years this park has served the recreational and spiritual needs of this community. It has provided athletic fields for young and old. Children have felt the wind in their face as they have run the bases of its ballfield, caught passes on its football field, and kicked goals on its soccer field. Youths have dunked basketballs on its courts ala Michael Jordan and ripped aces like Jimmy Connors. They have sped around its track in pursuit of a 4 minute mile or just walked for cardiac health. Seniors enjoy its benches and quiet shady rest areas. Children play on the swings and increase their agility on the jungle bars. The community picnics and just spends some quiet time in an area that is congested, industrialized and urban. Riverbank Park provides all these amenities in a small 10.7 acre tract of land - because of the genius of its design.

Riverbank Park has a grandstand that is not only unique but structurally sound. The roof needs repair but still provides protection for those who choose to sit and watch a game. The baseball field has a character of its own - just like Fenway, Wrigley, and Camden Yards.

The firm of Frederick Law Olmsted & Sons is renowned for taking land and waste sites and converting these useless plots of land, and making these plots into parkland usable to communities. Riverbank Park is one of his grandest examples. It

stands in an area that was formally a smelting refinery, located between heavily traveled roads, among factories and residences. And yet it is and has been heavily used for decades by the residents of Ironbound.

This historical park has been slated for destruction by authorities who have no appreciation of history, architecture and most importantly, community need. We in the Ironbound ask that Riverbank Park be protected for future generations and in the memory of countless individuals of past generations who left their footprints indelibly etched on its fields.

Riverbank Park

continued from P. 3

there - tennis, basketball, soccer, baseball, the jogging track, playground, benches for seniors citizens to relax and enjoy the shade, etc.

Essex County officials have been fighting the historic designation, claiming that it would take more time, and cost more to clean up the park. Business interests who wanted a profit-making soccer stadium in the park are continuing to talk about that plan.

"The historic designation would help protect the park from being used by someone who wants to make money off of it," said Steve Powell.

Since October 1996, Essex County has done no maintenance at the park, some area residents have been picking up the garbage at the park themselves on a weekly basis.

"This is a wider issue than just Riverbank Park. I also believe that this community needs more areas for recreation," said Manuel Lavin. "We need to look for other spaces which could be used for the baseball and soccer fields that young people in this community desperately need."

Conference Explores the Connection Between Pollution & Disease

"The breast cancer epidemic is an international public health crisis," warns Bella Abzug, former Congresswoman, and president of Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). "Cancer is every woman's nightmare and one in eight women's grim reality in the United States. More and more research is indicating that the environment and its links to the breast cancer epidemic are a major factor in the development of all cancers, including breast cancer."

Ms. Abzug was the moderator at a Public Hearing at the Statehouse in Trenton on September 19 on pollution and disease, as part of "Turning the Tides: The Environmental Connection to the Rising Rates of Cancers, Reproductive Disorders, and Children's Diseases."

Tiwana Steward Griffin from the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste, testified at the hearing. "The Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste is dedicated to achieving environmental justice for **all** residents of New Jersey. Urban centers like the Ironbound should not bear a disproportionate share of polluting industries while affluent communities have absolutely no environmental stress to bear. Grassroots struggles will continue to be the centerpiece of a powerful movement to end environmental racism and achieve environmental justice," Ms. Steward Griffin said.

Testimony was presented on respiratory ailments, children who are born with birth defects, cancer, and other diseases which are likely to have environmental causes or connections.

Twenty seven state and national organizations participated in the public hearing, and the conference the next day.



ICATW Enters Grassroots Hall Of Fame!

The Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste (ICATW) was entered in the "Grassroots Hall of Fame" at an awards ceremony held on Sunday, October 5th in Washington, D.C.

The Center for Health, Environment and Justice presented the award to Tiwana Steward Griffin, coordinator for the Ironbound Community Corporation's Community Environmental Program. Ms. Steward-Griffin was a guest speaker at the CCHW National Environmental Justice Convention. Her presentation was on "Confronting Racism and the Importance of Diversifying the Environmental Justice Movement."

The award letter for ICATW stated, "Your organization's accomplishments have won you wide recognition and acclaim as you advance the work of the Grassroots Movement for Environmental Justice."

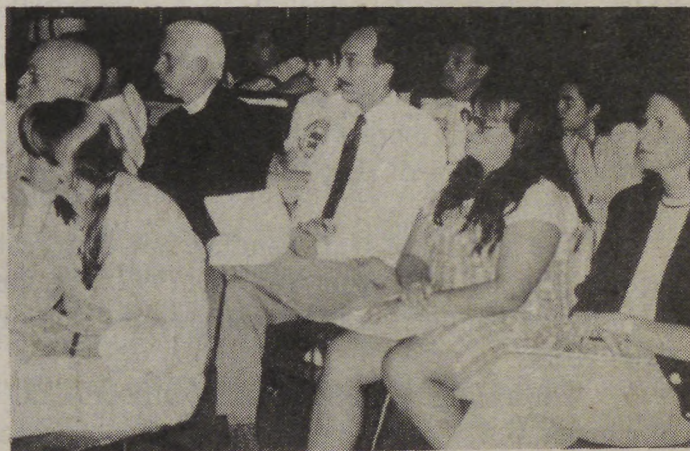
The Center for Health, Environment and Justice is a national organization, whose director is Lois Gibbs, famous for her activism in cleaning up the polluted Love Canal neighborhood.

What To Do With The Floor of the Bay

Over the summer, a group was meeting in Ironbound to discuss a "Citizens Guide to Dredging." What do community residents need to know about a proposal to use dredge materials in their community in order to feel safe? What are a community's rights to participate in these decisions? How are the decisions made?

Dredging - digging up and cleaning out the bottom of the harbor - is being pushed by businesses that use Port Newark and Port Elizabeth in order to allow large ships to come in to use the Port. But the silt on the bay floor that needs to be dredged up is contaminated because of toxics dumped into the water. This makes dredging expensive.

Where can these dredge materials be safely put? Putting them back in the ocean is no longer an option because the material has been found to adversely effect marine life and an agreement has been reached by the federal government and New Jersey to prohibit this. Dredged material has been cleaned up and put into abandoned mines in Pennsylvania. It was also used to fill in a parking lot for new businesses off the Turnpike in Elizabeth by IKEA. That project was opposed by the City of Elizabeth and community groups, but was approved anyway. There are proposals to use dredged material in Bayonne to fix and fill in a contaminated landfill



Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste (ICATW) and Clean Ocean Action co-hosted a two day Conference on dredging the Newark bay, and what to do with silt.

and build a golf course. In addition, another project would fill in bay bottom and wetland for another golf course. There are rumors that dredged material might be used in Ironbound to fill in the old Englehart site off Delancy St.

At the second evening of the conference in Ironbound, people heard from experts about a variety of proposals for dredging by-products and began raising questions that need to be answered in order to feel safe. They also discussed the contents that a citizens' guide should have in order to be helpful. If you want more information, call (201) 589-3353.

Job Announcement

Part-Time Organizer

Ironbound Community Corporation Community Environmental Program

Ability to speak Portuguese and English preferred. Working in the community on environmental issues.

Call Tiwana or Joe at 589-3353.

Brick City!

The City planned to pave their street, but residents of Hamilton St. liked the brick surface. They organized a petition drive to keep the brick surface of their street. They presented their petitions at a City Council meeting. City officials agreed to leave the street alone. Working together, these residents were able to win!

Rich Getting Richer, and Paying Less Taxes

The top 5% of the population in the United States took in more money yearly than do half of our nation's households combined. The top one percent now owns more wealth than the 92% of the population combined! (Figures based on data from the census bureau).

The top 1% of U.S. Families saw their real income soar by 83% from 1977 to 1995. For the majority of families, real income declined during those years.

The average Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of a major U.S. Corporation now makes more than 200 times the income of their average worker. Back in 1974, CEO's made 34 times the average workers salary.

CEO's pay rose 92% from 1990 to 1995, while the average person's pay rose only 16%, just enough to cover inflation.

Many American families have stayed afloat by having more people in their family working, and working two or more jobs. Many are working part time jobs, with no health insurance, paid vacations, or pension plans.

At the same time, corporations and wealthy individuals have been paying less and less taxes. The tax rate for the wealthy, once as high as 91%, is now at 39.6%.

What can anyone do about it? The Corporate Responsibility Act, introduced last year, would reduce some of the tax benefits to big wealthy corporations. Military spending could also be reduced. The Center for Defense Information (led by a number of retired high ranking military officers, has suggested spending cuts which would save about 4500 billion over seven years.

These two steps alone would total \$1.3 trillion over the next seven years. That would pay for a lot of baseball fields, new schools, jobs, small business loans, and new homes.

The information for this article comes from an article by Dennis Kalob, printed in Blueprint for Social Justice, a publication of Loyola University.

CAMPAIGN FOR HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

The Catholic Church Working to End
Poverty and Injustice in America.

Appeal Sunday: November 16, 1997

Collection Sunday: November 23, 1997

Poverty in America

36.4 million Americans, 13.8% of the total population, lived below the poverty level in 1994.

A three-person family was considered poor if its income was less than \$12,158.



A person working full time at the minimum wage earned \$8,691 in a year.



Ironbound Recreation Updates

The following are updates from a recent interview with Howard Lazarus, Chief Engineer for the City of Newark:

* The Hennessey Park (Chestnut St.) is going to be renovated to become a "soccer court". This is a rink with sides for hockey and soccer practice.

* The B Field at Ironbound Stadium will be getting a synthetic surface. This is the field used by the Senior League baseball team. It should be ready by the spring of 1998.

* The A Field remains contaminated. It is being used to store dirt from the construction of the pool nearby.

* The work at the Aquatic Center is more expensive than predicted. However, the construction work is progressing.

* The ice rink at Ironbound Stadium is open. The heat and hot water systems are being repaired. The roof has been fixed. The locker rooms are open.

Incinerator: We Told You So

Essex County has gone to court to try to get out of its contract with American Ref-Fuel, the owner of the garbage incinerator in Ironbound, according to an article in the Oct. 7 New York Times.

Essex County is paying \$73 a ton to get rid of garbage. The incinerator is importing waste from New York City for \$40 a ton.

Maurio Tucci, chairman of the Essex County Utility Authority, said, "It may have been groundbreaking at the time, but this deal is no longer a good one for Essex County."

Arnold Cohen, from the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste, said, "Before they signed that contract, we told them it was a lousy contract. They didn't listen. All Essex County taxpayers are paying for their mistakes."

The state of New Jersey used to tell towns and counties where they had to take their garbage, regardless of cost. Last May, the federal court said that system was unconstitutional. Now towns and counties can take their garbage where it is cheapest.

Unless they have a bad contract, like Essex County's contract with American Ref-Fuel and the Port Authority.

The Department of Environmental Protection has issued new rules to allow counties to impose special fees for a period of six months, until the legislature can "bail out" the counties that built incinerators. Governor Whitman introduced a bill in June 1997, to put \$20 million into the proposed state budget to help pay the debt service on incinerators.

Environmental groups have criticized the idea of bailing out the incinerators with tax funds. "New Jersey needs a phase out, not an unconditional bail out of the incinerator industry," said David Pringle from the New Jersey Environmental Federation. "These companies receive guaranteed private profits with no risk at the taxpayers expense."

Questions and Answers About SID

Questions. There were lots of them at a community meeting held Oct. 22 about a proposal to start a SID in Ironbound. SID stands for Special Improvement District, sometimes called a BID, Business Improvement District.

At the meeting, Seth Grossman of the Department of Community Affairs explained that the state passed a law in 1984 which allowed SIDS to be formed. There are 35 SIDS in New Jersey. In a SID, all businesses are required to pay an extra assessment. This money is used to hire a manger, pay for extra security, clean up streets, change street signs, or anything else the businesses agree to do.

Steve Rappaport, an Ironbound businessman, said the Ironbound SID has been designed by a Steering Committee, made up of some area businessmen, the Newark Economic Development Committee, Councilman Martinez, and a representative from New Jersey Transit. The City Council must pass an ordinance allowing the SIDS to form, and then a Board of Directors would be set up.

It is estimated that the Ironbound SID would generate \$1.5 million in revenue every year. The proposed budget for the SID calls for close to \$400,000 to be spent on administration.

Residents and business owners who attended the meeting asked many questions, and voiced many concerns. "What happens if you do not agree with something the SID is doing, what channels do you have to challenge it?" asked one person. Some stated that Ironbound would lose its distinctive look and feel.

While SID promoters said residents will get extra services, with no charge, one businessman said that increased costs would be passed on to residents, who will have to pay more for the things they buy. "This will affect everybody."

Another resident said the City is already supposed to supply security and sanitation services, paid for with regular taxes.

For information on the next meeting about SID, call 465-0603.

"Para As Nossas Crianças"

"Jamais deve existir outra Hiroshima. Nós temos que aguar-nos com respeito ao nosso destino. Vida é um preveligio, e nós temos que fazer uma escolha que seja melhor para as nossas crianças. Nós precisamos de progressar fara das nossas escolas, nossas casas e as nossa igreja e esigêngimos uma mudança essencial."

Ramsey Clark foi a orador, o antigo Attorney General dos Estados Unidos. O Sr. Clark foi o orador mais importante na Dia da Hiroshima na Metropolitan Baptist Church no dia 7 de Agosto de 1997.

Sr. Clark falou sobre Tridente 2 submarines nucleares que os Estados Unidos ponde mandar, 24 missils simultânêo. Cada un dos missels contem dez vezes mais carga explosiva do que a bomba que destrue a Nagasaki.

Sr. Clark disse que nos proximos três anos 65,000 pessoas nos estados do ocidente nos Estados Unidos vão murrer de cancer da tiroide por causa dos testes futas ao bombas nucleares.

Sr. Clark disse que mais de 500,000 crianças foram mortas no Guerra do Iraqui em consecuencia das bombas e sanciona na quele pais.

"Olha para os bairros de Newark aonde tu vez pessoas chuas de fome, pessoas desempregadas, pessoas sem cuidados medicos, escolas em decadencia, aonde tu verduramente não poder apprender a ler ou escrever."

O Sr. Clark disse que os recursos que estão a ser tirados das crianças, dos pobres, dos idosos, e dos doentes cronicas.

Congressman Donald Payne tambem falou. "Conforme o extenso que nós continuamas a contribuir billiões de dollars para as armas, nós famas poder fazer estas coisas como melhorar as escolas e pais prover trabalhas e casas."



Nos O Avisamos

O Condado do Essex foi ao tribunal na tentativa de cancelar um contrato a America Ref-Fuel, proprietaria do incinerador de lixo localizado no Ironbound, de acordo com um artigo publicado no dia 7 de Outubro no Jornal "New York Times."

O Condado do Essex esta pagando a impotancia de \$73 por tonelado de lixo. No entanto, a mesma companhia esta importando lixo de Nova York e cobrando somente \$40 a tonelada.

Arnold Cohen, do Comitê do Ironbound Contra Produtos Toxicos, disse, "Antes deles assinarem aquele contrato, nos os avisamos que aquele contrato era péssimo. Não deram ouvidos. Agora, todos os residentes do Essex estão pagando pela burrice deles."

O estado de Nova Jersey tinha uma lei a qual especificava os locais onde os condados deveriam despejar os seus lixos. No passado mes de Maio, um tribunal Federal disse que tal lei era inconstitucional. Os condados agora tem liberdade para pechinchar e decidir pelo local mais barato.

A não ser que tenham um contrato mal feito, como tem o condado do Essex, com a firma American Ref-Fuel e o departamento dos Portos.

O Departamento de Proteção do Meio Ambiente passou novas medid e regulamentos afim de permitir aos Condados de impor taxas extras por um periodo de seis meses, até que uma nova legislação possa ajudar economicamente os condados que construíram seus proprios incineradores. A governadora Whitman introduziu nova petição em Junho de 1997, colocando à disposição a importancia de \$20 milhões afim de ajudar os condados pagarem suas dividas.

Grupos de proteção de Meio Ambiente tem criticado tal ideia de usar dinheiro das taxas. "Nova Jersey necessita um tempo, e não uma coisa incondicional afim de salvar financeiramente as industrias de incineração," disse David Pringle da Federação do Meio Ambiente de Nova Jersey. "Estas companhias recebem garantias de produzirem lucros às custas de nossos impostos."

Riverbank Park: Estádio de Beisebol: NAO! Agora, Limpem-no!

Os residentes do Ironbound, lutando contra as entidades da cidade e do Condado que pretendiam erguer um estádio para a prática do beisebol no Riverbank Park, alcançaram uma vitória, quando foi oficialmente anunciado que o estádio de beisebol seria construído na área da Bridge Street, na baixa de Newark.

"É uma vitória para os residentes da Comunidade," afirmou Manuel Lavin da organização SPARK (Save the Park At RiverbankK). "Os residentes da comunidade não pretendiam aqui um estádio com fins lucrativos. Agora, temos que juntar esforços e proceder à sua limpeza e mantê-lo para bem de todos."

Uma vez que produtos tóxicos foram encontrados no Parque, a organização SPARK coopera agora com um grupo de peritos de protecção ao meio ambiente que entendem a extensão do problema e sabem como proceder à sua limpeza o mais rapidamente possível, e também da forma mais económica. Membros da SPARK contactaram já o Instituto de Tecnologia de New Jersey, o Instituto de Eco-Política de Rutgers University e outros peritos entendidos.

"Temos de proceder à abertura do parque o mais rapidamente possível, uma vez que é grande a necessidade de espaços para recreio nesta comunidade," disse o Riverendo Paul Hagedorn, membro de SPARK. "Faremos tudo o que está ao nosso alcance para dar rapidez ao processo, e também lcoalizar outras áreas no Ironbound que possam servir de campos de futebol e de baseibol para os nossos jovens. O Ironbound precisa de mais áreas de recreio."

A decisão para mudar o local do estádio de beisebol não é final, uma vez que terá ainda de ser aprovada pelo Conselho dos Freeholders e pelo Conselho Municipal.

Em Agosto, o Serviço Nacional de Parques publicou uma ordem para "cessar e desistir" na



demolição do parque. A Autoridade de Melhoramentos do Condado do Essex (ECIA), os concessionários, deveriam ter apresentado ao Serviço Nacional de Parques o seu projecto para aprovação. Como dinheiros federais seriam gastos no parque, o Serviço Nacional de Parques teria de aprovar qualquer alteração no Parque. As revisões federais demorariam alguns anos. Também o programa "New Jersey Green Acres," teria de dar a sua aprovação. E os concessionários começar a utilizar o estádio na Primavera de 1998.

Num outro aspecto, a Junta Consultiva do Comissário Histórico de New Jersey votou unanimemente em 24 de Setembro de 1997 que o Riverbank Parque fosse designado local histórico. Com esta designação, a comunidade deverá ter voz activa quando se trate de qualquer alteração no Parque. Mudanças podem ainda ser feitas dentro de Parque, se a Comunidade assim desejar, como por exemplo, acrescentar 10 jardas para que o campo de jogos possua as medidas mínimas para prática de futebol. A decisão final sobre designação histórica deverá ser dada pelo Comissário James Hall dentro

cont. p. 10

"Protejido Pelas Gerações Do Futuro"

Seguintes são as observações feitas por Manuel Lavin de SPARK ao Conselho do Estado de New Jersey reunião sobre a designação histórica para Riverbank Parque. O Conselho votou unanimemente para recomendar que o parque seja designado como um lugar histórico Ambiente:

Estou aqui como um residente da seção Ironbound de Newark para falar sobre a importância de Riverbank Parque da nossa comunidade.

Para quase noventa anos, este parque tem servido os acessidades da recreação e do desporto desta comunidade. Tem provido campos desportos pelos jovens e velhos. As crianças tem sentido a vento em suas caras como tem corrido as bases de seu campo de beisebol, agarrando bolas a seu campo de "football" e dado poutapés para golos no campo de futebol. Os jovens têm feito cestos em suas quadras ala Michael Jordan e servido pontos como Jimmy Connors. Eles têm se appressado em circulo de sua rota na caça uma milha de quatro minutos ou já caminhado pela saúde do coração. Os velhos gostam de seus bancos e a tranquilidade de suas áreas na sombra para descanso. As crianças brincam nos balouços e melhoram sua agilidade nas barras do mato. A comunidade tem piqueniques e já passa alguns tempos de tranquilidade numa área que é congestionado, industrializado e urbana. O Parque de Riverbank prova todas estas amenidades numa pequena área de 10.7 acres de terra - porque do gênio de seu desígnio.

O Parque de Riverbank tem uma arquibancada a que não só é unica mas também são de construção. O telhado precisa reparo mas ainda prove proteção por aqueles quem escolhem sentar e assistir a um jogo. O campo de beisebol tem um caráter proprio-já como Fenway (Boston), Wrigley (Chicago), e Camden Yards (Baltimore).

A firma de Frederick Law Olmstead e Filhos é renomado para tomar terra e lugares sem valor e converter estes pedaços inaproveitáveis da terra, e fazer estes pedaços de parques proveitosos para comunidades. O Parque de Riverbank é um de seus

principais exemplos. Está situado numa área a que era no passado uma refinaria para tirar metal, colocado entre estradas habitados muito, no meio de fábricas e residentes. Demais é agora e tem sido usado pesadamente para décadas por os residentes de Ironbound.

Este parque historico tem sido tabelado para destruição de autoridades quem não têm avaliação de história, architectura e do mais importancia, as necessidades da comunidade. Nós em Ironbound, pedimos que o Parque de Riverbank seja protegido pelas gerações do futuro e na memória de pessoas sem numero de gerações passadas que deixaram suas pegadas indelévelamente gravadas em seus campos.

Riverbank Park

cont. de p. 11

de 45 dias. Uma vez que o Parque foi originalmente designado para incluir área de recreio, preservação histórica, nesta caso, garantirá que actividades de recreio de vários tipos continuem a ser ali praticadas - ténis, basquetebol, futebol, beisebol, atletismo, áreas de lazer, bancos, etc.

As entidades do condado de Essex têm vindo a lutar contra a possibilidade de designação historica do Parque, afirmando que levará mais tempo, e que a limpeza do Parque custará mais dinheiro. Interesses comerciais que pretendiam um estádio para fins lucrativos no Parque continuam a falar sobre aquele plano. "A designação histórica ajudará a proteger o Parque daqueles que nele querem fazer negocio e lucrar," afirmou Steve Powell.

Desde Outubro de 1996 que o Condado de Essex não faz qualquer limpeza ou conservação no Parque, sendo alguns residentes que semanalmente procedem à sua limpeza.

"Esta questão é muito mais vasta que o mero Riverbank Parque. Acredito também que esta comunidade precisa de mais áreas para recreio," disse Manuel Levin.

No Habrá Estadio De Beisbol En el Parque Riverbank -

"!Ahora, Se Trata De Limpiarlo!"

Los vecinos del Ironbound lograron una victoria importante en su lucha contra la construcción de un complejo deportivo para equipos de ligas menores en el Parque Riverbank, al anunciar las autoridades municipales la reubicación del estadio de beisbol hacia el centro de Newark, junto a la calle Bridge.

"Es una victoria para la gente de la comunidad," dijo Manuel Lavin, vocero de SPARK, (Save the Park at Riverbank). "No queríamos que se construyera un estadio (en el parque) para fines de lucro. Ahora nos toca unirnos para lograr que se limpie y se mantenga el parque para los usuarios."

Ya que se ha detectado contaminación tóxica en el parque, SPARK solicitó la colaboración de expertos en remediación ambiental de organismos como NJIT - el Instituto Tecnológico de New Jersey - y el Instituto Eco-Político de Rutgers, para investigar las dimensiones de la contaminación, y los mejores métodos para efectuar una limpieza rápida y económica.

"Nos urge la reapertura del parque lo antes posible, pues las necesidades recreativas de la comunidad son grandes," dijo el Rvdo. Paul Hagedorn, miembro de SPARK. "Haremos todo lo posible para agilizar el proceso además de buscar sitios en Ironbound donde se pueda construir todavía más canchas para que nuestra juventud juegue beisbol y futbol. Se necesita nuevas áreas recreativas."

Aún no es definitiva la decisión de cambiar el sitio del proyecto, pues tanto la Junta del Condado (County Board of Freeholders), como el Consejo Municipal tendrán que aprobar el nuevo plan.

Nunca Pidieron Permiso

Fue en Agosto que el Servicio Nacional de Parques emitió un recurso de amparo contra la demolición del parque. La meta de la Essex County Improvement Authority (Autoridad de



Mejoramientos del Condado de Essex), del proyecto, de inaugurar el estadio para la temporada beisbolística de 1998 resultó irrealista, pues no se molestaron en conseguir acuerdo de las autoridades federales y estatales. Estas instancias se vieron involucradas en consecuencia de los fondos que ambas brindaron en años pasados para mantener y mejorar el parque. Al nivel federal este proceso de aprobación suele durar varios años.

Parque Riverbank Patrimonio Historico

En otros acontecimientos, los Asesores del Comisionado de Preservación del Patrimonio recomendaron unánimemente el 24 de Septiembre que se declare el parque Riverbank como sitio histórico. El Comisionado, Sr. James Hall, tiene un periodo de 45 días para aceptar o rechazar dicha recomendación. Una vez calificada de histórico, todo cambio importante en las instalaciones del lugar se puede hacer solo con el apoyo de la comunidad. Cambios favorecidos por la comunidad (como sería el alargar la cancha de futbol para conformar con las normas deportivas) siempre se podrían realizar. Ya que el parque siempre fue un área recreativa,

cont. p.14

"La Importancia Del Parque Riverbank En Nuestra Comunidad"

Los siguientes fueron los comentarios hechos por Manuel Lavin de SPARK en la reunión del Consejo de Consultas del estado de New Jersey, sobre la designación histórica del parque Riverbank. El Consejo de Consultas votó unánimemente recomendar que dicho parque fuera designado como un lugar histórico. La decisión final será lucha por el comisario James Hall del Departamento de Protección del Medio Ambiente.

Yo estoy aquí como un residente de la sección Ironbound de Newark para hablar sobre la importancia del Parque Riverbank en nuestra comunidad.

Durante casi noventa años este parque ha servido las necesidades recreacionales y espirituales de esta comunidad. Ha proveído campos de atletismo para los jóvenes y para los ancianos. Los niños han sentido el viento en sus caras según corrían las bases del campo de beisbol, cojían pases en el campo de fútbol americano y tiraban goles en el campo de fútbol. Jóvenes han metido tanto en el campo de baloncesto a la manera de Michael Jordan y han metido tantos de tenis a la manera de Jimmy Connors. Han corrido vueltas alrededor de la pista, tratando de conseguir correr una milla en 4 minutos o han andado en busca de su salud cardiaca. Los ancianos disfrutan descansando en sus bancos y en sus zonas silenciosas y de sombra. Los niños juegan en los columpios y aumentan su agilidad en el juego de barras. La comunidad hace picnics y pasa el tiempo tranquilamente en nuestro barrio que está congestionado, industrializado y urbanizado. El Parque Riverbank provee todas estas amenidades en una pequeña parcela de tierra de 10.7 acres (áreas), debido a la ingenuidad de su diseño.

El Parque Riverbank tiene una tribuna que no solamente es única, sino que también está estructuralmente fuerte. El tejado necesita reparar pero aún provee protección para los que elijen sentarse y ver los partidos. El campo de beisbol tiene su propio carácter, como los Fenway, Wrigley y Camden Yards.

La compañía de Frederick Law Olmsted y Sons, es famosa por tomar parcelas y lugares devastados y convertir estas inservibles en parques, en los que sus comunidades puedan disfrutar de ellos.

El parque Riverbank es uno de sus mejores ejemplos. Está situado en un lugar que fue antes una refinería de fundición, ubicado entre dos carreteras muy recorridas, y entre fábricas y residentes. Así todo, es y ha sido muy frecuentado durante décadas por los residentes del Ironbound.

Este parque histórico ha sido asignado para la destrucción por las autoridades que no tienen aprecian la historia, arquitectura y sobre todo, las necesidades de la comunidad. Nosotros en el Ironbound pedimos que el Parque Riverbank sea protegido para las generaciones futuras y en la memoria de innumerables individuos de las generaciones pasadas que dejaron sus huellas forjadas irrevocablemente en sus terrenos.

Parque De Riverbank cont. de p. 13

preservar su carácter histórico supone garantizar la preservación de recreo y deportes como tenis, baloncesto, beisbol, terrenos de juego y bancos para descanso. Los oficiales del condado se oponen a que se declare el parque un lugar histórico. Según su versión, tal calificación implicaría más dificultad para la remediación ambiental del parque. Mientras tanto, los intereses comerciales que apoyan la construcción del estadio de fútbol no abandonan su plan.

Hace más de un año que el Condado no mantiene el parque. Desde Octubre, son los propios vecinos que hacen la limpieza.

"Se trata aquí de una cuestión más amplia que el Parque Riverbank," afirma Manuel Lavin. "Esta comunidad necesita otras áreas recreativas."

"Para Nuestros Niños"

"Nunca debe ver otro Hiroshima. Hemos reconocido nuestro destino. La vida es algo que puede uno escoger y tenemos que escoger lo que es bueno para nuestros niños. Tenemos que marchar afuera de nuestras escuelas, nuestras casas y de nuestras iglesias y exigir cambio fundamental."

El orador fue Ramsey Clark, el ex-Abogado General de los Estados Unidos. El Señor Clark fue el orador principal en la Celebración del Día de Hiroshima de 1997, que ocurrió en la Iglesia Metropolitan Baptist el 7 de Agosto del 1997.

El Señor Clark habló acerca de los submarinos nucleares Trident 2, que los Estados Unidos tiene, que pueden lanzar 24 proyectiles al mismo tiempo. Cada proyectil contiene 10 veces el cargo explosivo que la bomba que destruyó a Nagasaki.

El Señor Clark dijo que en los próximos tres años, 65,000 personas en los estados occidentales de los Estados Unidos morirán de cáncer de tiroides causado por pruebas de bombas nucleares.

El Señor Clark dijo que más que 50,000 niños murieron en la Guerra de Iraq. Como resultado de el bombardeo y sanciones de ese país.

"Miren a los barrios, y ghettos de New York, y ustedes ven a personas con hambre, personas sin empleo, personas sin cuidado médico, escuelas derumbándose donde uno no puede aprender a leer ó escribir de verdad."

El Señor Clark dijo que los recursos están siendo tomados de niños, pobres, ancianos y enfermos."

El Congresista Donald Payne, que también habló en la Celebración del Día de Hiroshima, dijo eco al tema. "No podremos hacer cosas como mejorar escuelas ó proveer trabajos y vivienda mientras continuamos a poner billones de dólares para armas."

"El costo masivo de este país en nombre de una defensa fuerte (\$248) billones en apropiaciones en actualidad amenaza a hacer más débil a nuestro país."

Se Lo Advertimos

El Condado Essex ha ido a la corte para tratar de despararse del contrato con American Ref-Fuel, el dueño del incinerador del Ironbound, acordando con un artículo publicando el 7 de Octubre en el New York Times.

El Condado Essex está pagando \$73.00 por toneladas para deshacerse de la basura. El incinerador está importando la basura de New York por solo \$40 la tonelada.

Arnold Cohen, del Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste, dijo, "Antes de que firmen el contrato, le dijimos que esto era un contrato que no servía. Ellos no nos escucharon. Todos los que pagan impuestos están pagando por sus errores."

El estado de New Jersey tiene una ley la cual les informo que las ciudades y condados tenían que llevar sus desperdicios a pesar de su costo. En Mayo pasado, la corte federal dijo que el sistema era inconstitucional. Ahora los pueblos y condados llevan sus desperdicios donde les sea más económico.

A menos que no tengan un mal contrato, como el contrato de Essex County con American Ref-Fuel.

El Departamento de Protección Ambiental a impuesto nuevas reglas para permitirles a los condados que impongan cuotas especiales por un periodo de seis meses hasta que la legislatura pueda lograr "sacarlos" Condados que manufacturaron incineradores. La Gobernadora Whitman introducción una ley en Junio 1997, para poner \$20 millones en la cuenta del estado para sacar deudas y ayudar en el servicio con la situación de los incineradores.

Grupos ambientales han criticado la idea de sacar a los condados en problemas con fondos federales. "New Jersey necesita una face fuera no una ayuda incondicional y safarse de la industria del incinerador," dijo David Pringle, del New Jersey Environmental Federation. "Estas compañías reciben beneficios garantizados sin ningún riesgo a los pagadores de impuestos y sin ningún costo."

Ironbound Voices is a project of the Ironbound Community Information Center. We believe taht all people are entitled to income, food, clothing, housing, education, and health care. We will print articles about groups taking steps to make this belief a reality. We will also publish information about your legal and social service rights. This issue was published with the help of:

Bob Cartwright	Juan Haro
Arnold Cohen	Alfredo Rendeiro
Tiwana Steward-Griffin	Nydia Ortiz Fave
Paul Hagedorn	Joe Della Fave
Lucy Millerand	Begonia Kowet
Juarez Santos	Rosa Conceição
Nancy Zak	Marcia Correia

Recreation Roundtable

What recreation programs do you think Ironbound needs for its children and young people? More sóccer fields? More playgrounds? More baseball fields?

Come and help to develop a recreation plan for the neighborhood. Working with NJIT, we will look at some options, and develop ideas.

St. Lucy Filippini School Cafeteria
Thursday, Nov. 13, 5:30 to 7:30 PM
142 Jefferson St.

Enter on Madison St.

Call Ironbound Community Corporation,
589-3353 for more information.

Subscribe

To The

Ironbound Voices

It's important to have a *tri-lingual* newspaper in Ironbound. We ask you to subscribe so we can pay the costs of printing and mailing. A subscription gets you a mailed copy of ***Ironbound Voices***.

Name _____

Address _____

\$5 annual subscription fee _____

\$10 a year sustainer _____

Donation _____

Ironbound Community Corporation

95 Fleming Ave.

Newark, N.J. 07105

Address Correction Requested.

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
NEWARK, N.J.
PERMIT NO. 5366

